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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A stake bed assembly for a mortar buggy comprising:

a) a removable flat bed with an attached rear end wall and a subframe which allows the flat bed to be supported from a chassis of a mortar buggy from which a mortar hopper has been removed, said flat bed having a plurality of vertical and horizontal stakeholders along side edges thereof which can receive stake members;

b) left and right removable side panels each having at least two stake members attached to said panels which extend beyond one edge of each said panels for selective insertion into said vertical stakeholders to form a hopper or into said horizontal stakeholders to form an extended flat bed;

c) a front tailgate attachable to a front edge of said side panels and flat bed when said stake members on said side panels are set into the vertical stakeholders; and

d) a pair of left and right swing-out extendable arms hingedly supported from said removable flat bed to support said left and right side panels when said stake members of said side

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panels are inserted into said horizontal stakeholders to form said extended flat bed.

2. (Previously Presented) The stake bed assembly for a mortar buggy of claim 1 wherein said front tailgate is pivotally supported such that it can be hinged to swing away from the side panels at its top or bottom.

3. (Cancelled).

4. (Currently Amended) The stake bed assembly for a mortar buggy of claim 1 wherein said left and right panels have a securing hole and said ~~swing-out~~ arms have a securing hole to secure each ~~swing-out~~ arm in position underneath its respective panel.

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Cancelled).

7. (Previously Presented) The stake bed assembly of claim 1 wherein the side panels, rear end wall and front tailgate,

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fit snugly together to form a solid wall hopper capable of carrying loose or granular materials.

Claims 8-28 (Cancelled).

29. (Currently Amended) The stake bed assembly for a mortar buggy of claim 1 wherein said front tailgate is attachable to the side panels and subframe of the flat bed when both side panels are set into the vertical stakeholders ~~of the subframe~~ in a vertical orientation such that the front tailgate can be hinged to swing away from the side panels and subframe either from the top or the bottom of said tailgate.

30. (Previously Presented) The stake bed assembly for a mortar buggy of claim 1 wherein said front tailgate is attachable to the subframe of the flat bed when both side panels are set in a horizontal orientation to form extensions on said flat bed.

31. (Previously Presented) The stake bed assembly for a mortar buggy of claim 1 wherein said front tailgate can be attached to the subframe of the flat bed when the side panels are removed.

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32. (Previously Presented) The stake bed assembly for a mortar buggy of claim 1 wherein said front tailgate is made of solid steel or other alloy and has stakes that are welded thereto to provide strength and rigidity.

33. (Currently Amended) The stake bed assembly for a mortar buggy of claim 1 wherein said front tailgate is attached to the side panels and the subframe of the flat bed at ~~all~~ four corners through the use of a hinge pin system.

34. (Previously Presented) The stake bed assembly for a mortar buggy of claim 1 wherein said stake bed assembly is configured for pivoted attachment to a wheeled chassis.

35. (Currently Amended) The stake bed assembly for a mortar buggy of claim 1, wherein said side ~~walls~~ panels have a securing component and said ~~swing-out arms~~ swing out and have a cooperating securing component to secure each swing-out arm in position underneath its respective side ~~wall~~ panel.

36. (Currently Amended) The stake bed assembly for a mortar buggy of claim 1, further comprising projections on a back

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edge of said removable side ~~walls~~ panels which cooperate with generally vertical slots in said rear wall to secure said side ~~walls~~ panels to said rear wall when said stake ~~projections~~ members on said side panels are received in said vertical stakeholders.

37. (Currently Amended) The stake bed assembly for a mortar buggy of claim 1, wherein said tailgate when folded down generally planar to said removable flat bed expands said extended flat bed when said side panel stake members are inserted in said horizontal stakeholders.

38. (Currently Amended) The stake bed assembly for a mortar buggy as claimed in claim 1, wherein side edges of said flat bed and bottom edges of said side ~~walls~~ panels include said vertical and horizontal stakeholders defining connecting structure to support said side ~~walls~~ panels selectively in vertical and horizontal laterally extending positions in relation to said flat bed.

39. (Currently Amended) The stake bed assembly for a mortar buggy as claimed in claim 38, wherein said side ~~walls~~ panels

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in said horizontal position increase an effective width of a supporting surface formed by said flat bed.

40. (Currently Amended) A stake bed assembly for a mortar buggy comprising:

a) a removable flat bed with a rear end wall supported from a chassis of a mortar buggy from which a mortar hopper has been removed, said flat bed having vertical and horizontal stakeholders along side edges thereof which can receive stake members;

b) left and right removable side panels each having at least two stake members attached thereto which extend beyond one edge of each said panels for insertion into said vertical stakeholders to form a hopper or into said horizontal stakeholders to form an extended flat bed;

c) a front tailgate attachable to said side panels and flat bed when said stake members on said side panels are set into the vertical stakeholders; and

d) swing-out extendable arms hingedly supported from said removable flat bed to support said left and right side panels when said stake members on said side panels are inserted into said horizontal stakeholders to form said extended flat bed.

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41. (Previously Presented) The stake bed assembly for a mortar buggy of claim 40 wherein said front tailgate is pivotally supported such that it can be hinged to swing away from the side panels at its top or bottom.

42. (Currently Amended) The stake bed assembly for a mortar buggy of claim 40 wherein said side ~~walls~~ panels have a securing component and said ~~swing-out~~ arms swing out and have a cooperating securing component to secure each swing-out arm in position underneath its respective side ~~wall~~ panel.

43. (Currently Amended) The stake bed assembly for a mortar buggy of claim 40, further comprising projections on a back edge of said removable side ~~walls~~ panels which cooperate with generally vertical slots in said rear wall to secure said side ~~walls~~ panels to said rear wall when said stake ~~projections~~ members on said side panels are received in said vertical stakeholders.

44. (Currently Amended) The stake bed assembly for a mortar buggy of claim 40, wherein said tailgate when folded down generally planar to said removable flat bed expands said extended

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flat bed when said side panel stake members are inserted in said horizontal stakeholders.